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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/562,030

12/21/2006

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10400C-000202/US

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07/07/2009

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EXAMINER

TUGBANG, ANTHONY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3729

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/07/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The applicant(s) amendment filed on April 23, 2009 has been fully considered and made of record.

Drawings

The drawings filed on December 22, 2005 have been accepted and approved by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14 through 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukunaga et al in view of Wermin 1,763,114.

Fukunaga discloses the final structure of a toroidal transformer comprising: a hollow bobbin (e.g. 4, 5 in Fig. 6) that includes two tubes of electrically insulating material having a substantially rectangular shaped interior hollow cross-section; a coil (e.g. 2) arranged around a periphery of the bobbin; and a core formed by a ribbon (e.g. 101, 102) wound inside the hollow bobbin.

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Regarding Claim(s) 15 and 16, the transformer structure of Fukunaga is toroidal (col. 1, lines 6-9) that can be used in electrical equipment of adaptors (e.g. appliances, see col. 1, lines 20-23).

Fukunaga does not teach that within the final structure, the bobbin material is "flexible". However, it is known in the transformer/inductor art, that electrically insulating materials can be pliable and flexible for the advantages of allowing it to be easily shaped and support ribbon material.

Wermine shows such a conventional feature where a hollow bobbin (e.g. 15) is made of a flexible insulating material (page 2, lines 63-70) that supports ribbon (e.g. 10).

It would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the bobbin material of Fukunaga by forming it with the flexible insulating materials of Wermine, for all of the associated advantages taught by Wermine.

Response to Arguments

The applicant(s) arguments filed April 23, 2009 have been fully considered, but have not been deemed to be found as persuasive.

The applicant(s) argue that Fukunaga et al do not teach a tube that forms the bobbin. The examiner most respectfully disagrees. It is clear from Figure 6 of Fukunaga that the bobbin (halves 4, 5) is hollow and is shaped as a U-shaped tube having walls that form a rectangular shaped interior hollow cross-section. With respect to the term of "flexible", this argument is met by the teachings of Wermine. Wermine does teach of completely different reason for making bobbin material flexible as compared to the applicant(s) reasoning. However, the applicant(s)

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reasoning for having the bobbin material be flexible has no bearing on Claims 14 through 16, being that patentability of these claims are directed to the final structure, not how the structure is made.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 through 7, 9 through 11 and 13 are allowed.

Conclusion

The applicant(s) amendment (**filed on April 23, 2009**) has necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 571-272-4570.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:15 am - 4:45 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on 571-272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**/A. Dexter Tugbang/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3729**

July 5, 2009